

2013 Annual Report

Alliance Names Industry Veteran as 2014 Chairperson

'Thank You to Everyone for Their Hard Work'

First, I want to thank everyone for their hard work this last year. Because of Holly Koofer-Thompson, Mark Rembecki and the Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse's program committee and committee at large, we pulled off a very commendable 10th Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse. This five-state effort is one of the most remarkable and successful outcomes of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling. Most notable was the conference committee's decision to continue on for 2014. They now have a conference planner and are moving forward to ensure conferences in 2015 and beyond.

Although the nature of this endeavor is scary, due to the unknown, the strength of commitment of the Alliance is why the conference is in Missouri. I encourage all Alliance members to maintain and steadily increase their support. This conference is our strongest evidence of commitment to affecting the lives and recovery of those most negatively impacted by gambling addiction. Of special note is the Kansas City Port Authority's increased funding of \$10,000. I challenge all Alliance members to consider increasing support of this very important conference.

In all honesty, we haven't even begun to curb problem gambling. Addiction is a systemic and non-preventable disease. However, ensuring that there are trained professionals in the area who can assist individuals and families in recovery is a primary intervention. A real indication that problem and addicted gambling continues, and has developed, is that Gamblers Anonymous meetings have grown, and they're now community institutions essential to the recovering community.

There is much that can be done to increase the safety net for problem and addicted gamblers. Missouri desperately needs a residential compulsive gambling treatment program. We also need a media/marketing program directed at increasing knowledge of "when not to gamble" and when to get help. If these initiatives are not in place, compulsive gamblers may not seek help until the cost is much greater than it needs to be. Problem gamblers will gamble in degrees that may not meet the criteria of addiction, but like non-addicted drunk drivers, they still have a profound negative affect on their own lives, their families, their communities and their jobs.

Again, congratulations, and sincere thanks to all involved with the Alliance! Your work has helped us reach an incredible level of accomplishment in 2013. Now, let's set a course for the rest of the trip!

2014 Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Chairperson,
Keith Spare, MS, M.Div., LPC,CCGC

Keith Spare has worked in the problem gambling field for more than 18 years. In addition to counseling problem gamblers for nearly two decades, he has also provided training to hundreds of addictions counselors. Additionally, he served as president of the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns, chairperson of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling and affiliate committee member of the National Council on Problem Gambling.

Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Overview

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, which was created in 1997, is a partnership between the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns Inc., the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Missouri Gaming Association, the Missouri Gaming Commission, the Missouri Lottery, the Port Authority of Kansas City and a recovery community representative.

The purpose of the Alliance is to educate Missourians on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling, to refer compulsive gamblers and their family and friends to free treatment through a toll-free help line, to prevent underage play and to promote responsible gaming.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit 888betsoff.org.

Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Service Highlights

Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633)

Life Crisis Services (LCS) operates a 24-hour help line service for callers seeking help for a gambling problem. The Missouri Gaming Association provides the funding for the help line. LCS received a total of 2,057 calls during calendar year 2013.

Bets Off Website: 888betsoff.org

The Bets Off website features a list of Missouri certified compulsive gambling counselors and information about problem gambling, the Voluntary Exclusion Program, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the *Bets Off Bulletin* and more.

Voluntary Exclusion Program

The Missouri Gaming Commission administers a statewide self-exclusion program for problem and pathological gamblers. The voluntary exclusion program is also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP). A total of 961 individuals have been approved for DAP placement during calendar year 2013.

Individuals have the option of choosing to be placed on DAP for a lifetime or temporary exclusion. Additional details can be found at mgc.dps.mo.gov.

Free Compulsive Gambling Treatment Services

The Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse contracts with certified compulsive gambling counselors to provide free treatment services to compulsive gamblers and their family members. Family members can access services regardless of whether the problem gambler enters treatment. During calendar year 2013, 154 clients accessed the free treatment services. Individuals seeking referral to a counselor in a specific area can call the help line at 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633).

Missouri Lottery Self-Exclusion Program

The Missouri Lottery's voluntary Self-Exclusion Program (SEP) is a responsible gaming resource for players who classify themselves as problem or pathological gamblers to reduce the incentive to play Lottery games that launched Aug. 1, 2013. SEP allows players to enter into voluntary lifetime self-ban agreements with the Lottery prohibiting those individuals from claiming prizes of more than \$600 and accessing the *My Lottery* Players Club.

SEP agreements can be downloaded at MOLottery.com or obtained at any Lottery office or sent through the mail. Forms must be completed entirely and notarized. Since the inception of SEP, one individual has signed up for the program.

Statistics

Calendar Year	Bets Off Help Line	Web Site Hits	Voluntary Exclusion	Free Treatment	SEP
1998	871	N/A	356	54	N/A
1999	1,034	N/A	596	113	N/A
2000	1,738	18,171	1,093	186	N/A
2001	2,846	46,617	1,403	335	N/A
2002	2,889	31,522	1,290	373	N/A
2003	3,339	46,456	1,367	344	N/A
2004	3,527	75,264	1,506	377	N/A
2005	2,593	139,423	1,696	360	N/A
2006	1,834	118,920	1,553	370	N/A
2007	1,682	623,214	1,412	358	N/A
2008	1,915	508,746	1,279	332	N/A
2009	2,263	514,940	896	343	N/A
2010	2,740	435,369	797	368	N/A
2011	2,093	444,062	790	231	N/A
2012	2,454	463,870	1,023	168	N/A
2013	2,057	N/A*	961	154	1

*Due to a data tracking conversion, 2013 data is unavailable.

Save The Dates!

March

National Problem Gambling Awareness Month

June 25-27

11th Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, Kansas City, Mo., MCPGSA.org

July 11 - 12

28th National Conference on Problem Gambling, Orlando, Fla., Ncpgambling.org

August

Missouri's Responsible Gaming Education Month

Alliance Provides Free Speakers, Presentations in Missouri

Are you looking for a speaker at an upcoming event? The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling can help. We provide speakers for groups and organizations throughout the state on topics ranging from the prevention of youth gambling to the warning signs of problem gambling.

For more information call (573) 526-7425, or email Susan.Goedde@molttery.com.

March Declared First-Ever National Problem Gambling Awareness Month

For the first time ever, March has been affirmed as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month by the National Council on Problem Gambling. The Missouri Lottery, in conjunction with the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, is joining the nationwide charge to raise awareness about problem gambling by paying for dedicated television and radio air time in March for Lottery-produced public service announcements. Additionally, the Lottery has also released a series of free problem gambling public service announcements to radio and television stations to play throughout the year at their discretion.

Missouri Lottery Executive Director May Scheve Reardon explained that what used to be a week-long awareness effort ballooned into a month-long NCPG-sponsored campaign encouraging individuals to “Navigate Problem Gambling” by becoming aware of the warning signs and help available both locally and nationally.

Reardon noted that information can be obtained in a variety of ways, including, a 24-hour help line, 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633); email address, freehelp@888betsoff.org; website, 888betsoff.org; and Lottery and casino self-exclusion programs, (573) 751-4050.

Reardon added that on behalf of the Alliance, the Lottery is also launching a new awareness campaign this month, “Help is on the Horizon,” and it will be featured via billboards, posters and brochures.

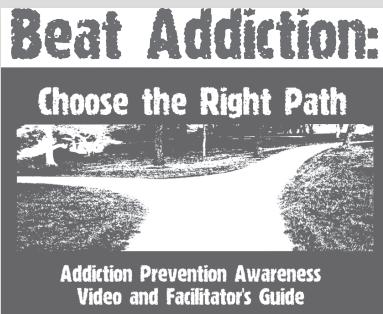
NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte said that after 11 years of sponsoring National Problem Gambling Awareness Week during the first week of March, “it was time to extend that awareness period to an entire month.”

“After problem gambling became classified as a behavioral addiction in the Diagnostic Manual, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) from the American Psychiatric Association last year, it was appropriate to lengthen the national awareness period in hopes of reaching more problem gamblers, concerned citizens and healthcare professionals to educate them about the newly classified addiction and available resources,” Whyte explained, noting that the classification is significant in the mental health field, because problem gambling was previously categorized as an impulse control disorder since its introduction into the DSM in 1980.

“National Problem Gambling Awareness Month provides an opportune time for healthcare professionals in all fields to utilize simple, free tools to screen for gambling problems which are available at npgam.org,” Whyte shared.

To learn more about problem gambling resources available in Missouri, visit 888betsoff.org, and to learn more about national resources, visit ncpgambling.org.

Free Beat Addiction Programs Still Available



If you haven't already taken advantage of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling-sponsored “Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path” youth addiction prevention program, there is still time to request a free kit!

The kit was designed for Missouri students in grades 6 through 12, but it could be utilized by other age groups. The kit includes a 30-minute DVD featuring four personal stories from a diverse cast in recovery from various addictions, a facilitator’s guide and poster. The DVD also contains a closed-caption and Spanish version.

To view a sample of the program, visit 888betsoff.org.

Apply to be Part of a New Awareness Campaign

Have you ever thought about sharing your story by appearing in a public service announcement (PSA)? If you or someone you know would like to apply to become a part of a new responsible gaming awareness campaign, now is your chance! The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling is seeking individuals who have a connection to problem gambling and/or other addictions to be featured in PSAs and educational pieces. To learn more, email Susan.Goedde@molttery.com.

Gambling Problem?

**FREE HELP IS
ON THE HORIZON**

1-888-BETSOFF

(1-888-238-7633)

888BETSOFF.org

MISSOURI ALLIANCE
TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

freehelp@888betsoff.org

Recognize a Problem Gambling Champion with an Alliance Award Nomination

Do you know an individual, group, organization or company outside of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's voting membership who has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling? If so, submit an award nomination for that person to win the Alliance's 2014 Outstanding Contributor Award!

Do you have someone in mind (an individual or a representative of a member organization – voting or participating) who has contributed to the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling in an extraordinary manner? Honor that person by nominating them for the Alliance's 2014 Service Award!

Nominations are due by May 1. Forms can be downloaded at 888betsoff.org.

Reserve a Spot at this Year's Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse

Are you a problem gambling counselor in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska or Oklahoma in need of continuing education units (CEUs) to keep your license current? Or, do you work in the gaming industry, or just simply want to learn more about responsible gaming? If so, mark your calendars, because the Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse (MCPGSA) is hosting the 11th annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse **June 25 - 27** at the Hilton Kansas City Airport in Kansas City. The conference will provide incredible opportunities to receive more than 15 CEUs, learn about the latest trends and research from world-renowned experts, network with peers and much more. Conference information can be accessed by visiting MCPGSA.org.



1-888-BETSOFF

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*Hard copies are no longer being printed.

MISSOURI alliance
TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's mission is to heighten public awareness for the dangers of problem gambling; develop prevention and education programs for gamblers of all ages; and direct problem gamblers and their families to the 1-888-BETSOFF help line and treatment.

